We all define intelligence as the capacity of an individual to learn and develop new knowledge and skills. For so many years we view this concept of “being smart” as a collective singular prospect of having great ability to learn.

But in the past decades the Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligence gained the worldwide attention. In his theory it indicates that “intelligence” is not one particular trait, it is a collection of different types of astuteness. Gardner believe that there are multiple types of intelligence and not being good at a particular thing does not mean that an individual is not smart.

According the Gardner, there seven types of intelligence. Each one identifies a specific subject group. The multiple intelligence theory insist that “intelligence” can not be singled out.

The first type of intelligence is the Musical-rhythmic and harmonic Intelligence or the Musical intelligence. As the type name suggest this intelligence type includes individuals who are hyper sensitive to tones, pitch, sounds, rhythm, tempo, and melody. Basically, these are the individuals who are musically inclined. People with this kind of intelligence are good singer, they are able to play various musical instruments and compose music.

The next one is the Visual-Spatial Intelligence or the ability to visualize what is on the mind. The people who are creative and with active imagination falls under this category. One way of putting it is having an eye in the mind.
The third type is the Verbal-linguistic Intelligence which is the type of intelligence wherein an individual is highly capable of learning languages. These people are usually multi-lingual. They are also good with words, writing, storytelling, and activities like declamation and spoken poetry.

The forth intelligence type is the ability to master numbers, equations, logistics, abstract reasoning, and critical thinking. These are the individuals that are part of the Logical-mathematical group. Logical-mathematical intelligence is the type of intelligence that is involved in being good at subjects like logic and mathematics. These people are very good at focusing on tasks and questions and very particular to details.

The next one is the Bodily-kinesthetic or the intelligence that deals with the movement and control of one’s body. Here falls athletes and dancers who are great in gross motor skills and fine motor skills. People who are bodily-kinesthetic intelligent are most likely to be involve in sports and other physically challenging activities and professions.

Then there is the Interpersonal Intelligence or the Social Intelligence, this is the intelligence that deals with the ability to communicate towards other people. These are the people who are considered as the social butterflies. They are very good at connecting with others and have high empathy what the people around them feels.

Interpersonal Intelligence on the other hand is the opposite. Being interpersonal intelligent is being self-aware and highly sensitive towards self-emotions. These kids of individuals are people who are highly cognizant towards personal strength and weakness.

Gardner’s theory discusses these intelligence types and how they differ from each other but at the same time can interconnect to form complex astuteness. Most of the time people falls under two or more intelligence type. Gardner did not challenge the existence of “intelligence” as a whole, but he aimed to redefine the conventional belief of
intelligence. In the years that follow the release of the theory, many have opposed Gardner’s belief. Critics flocked around the idea.

From an Educator’s perspective this theory makes absolute sense. Teachers have the privilege of being able to observe student’s behaviors, mannerisms, and learning capacity. The idea of a definition of intelligence not limited to a certain level is more accurate. Many students can be really good at one subject but struggle on the next, but that does not mean that they are less smart than the others. That is why educators aim to nurture every aspect of learning possible in order to show students their potential and lead them to cohesive growth and development.

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